

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks. Prior to entry of this response, Claims 1-20 were pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 8, and 15 are independent. Claims 8-20 have been previously withdrawn from consideration. In the Office Action dated November 14, 2005, Claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Following this response, Claims 1-7 remain under consideration in this application. Applicants hereby address the Examiner's rejections in turn.

I. **Change to Attorney Docket Number**

Please note that the Attorney Docket Number for this application is now **60001.0349US01/MS301199.1**.

II. **Rejection of the Claims Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)**

In the Office Action dated November 14, 2005, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,490,522 ("*Sugiyama*"). Claim 1 has been amended, and Applicants respectfully submit that the amendment overcomes this rejection and adds no new matter.

Amended Claim 1 is patentably distinguishable over the cited art for at least the reason that it recites, for example, "wherein, based upon the configuration of the first node and the second node, the first instruction and the second instruction are combined into the combined instruction when the driver would perceive the first node and the second node as a single integrated feature of the route." Support for this amendment can be found in the specification at least on page 5, lines 5-10.

In contrast, *Sugiyama* at least does not disclose the aforementioned recitation. For example, *Sugiyama* merely discloses that an input unit indicates a departure point and a destination point on map information. A calculation unit in *Sugiyama* extracts a plurality of routes, each connected from the departure point to the destination point from the map information, and calculates a guidance demand degree of arbitrary points along each of the plurality of routes. A guidance demand degree is an evaluation value of the point based on a linearity of route, a complexity of route junction, and a change of route width. A route selection unit in *Sugiyama* selects one route from the plurality of routes based on the guidance demand degree of each route. Also in *Sugiyama*, a guidance generation unit generates guidance information of the point decided to guide based on the guidance demand degree along the one route and a presentation unit presents the guidance information to a user. (See Abstract) In *Sugiyama*, combining a first instruction and a second instruction into a combined instruction when a driver would perceive a first node and a second node as a single integrated feature of a route is not disclosed. Rather *Sugiyama* is completely silent regarding at least combining when a driver would perceive a first and second node as a single integrated route feature.

Sugiyama does not anticipate the claimed invention because *Sugiyama* at least does not disclose “wherein, based upon the configuration of the first node and the second node, the first instruction and the second instruction are combined into the combined instruction when the driver would perceive the first node and the second node as a single integrated feature of the route”, as recited by amended Claim 1. Accordingly, independent Claim 1 patentably distinguishes the present invention over the cited art, and Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection of Claim 1.

Dependent Claims 2-7 are also allowable at least for the reasons described above regarding independent Claim 1, and by virtue of their dependency upon independent Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection of dependent Claims 2-7.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request the reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims. The preceding arguments are based only on the arguments in the Office Action, and therefore do not address patentable aspects of the invention that were not addressed by the Examiner in the Office Action. The claims may include other elements that are not shown, taught, or suggested by the cited art. Accordingly, the preceding argument in favor of patentability is advanced without prejudice to other bases of patentability. Furthermore, the Office Action contains a number of statements reflecting characterizations of the related art and the claims. Regardless of whether any such statement is identified herein, Applicants decline to automatically subscribe to any statement or characterization in the Office Action.

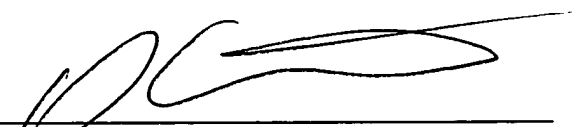
Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 13-2725.

Respectfully submitted,
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